

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001162

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: STATE 244000

1. DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART (NGA)
REPRESENTATIVES MET JANUARY 2 WITH ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR,
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM (ROM) TO GO OVER POSSIBLE COST-SHARING
AND OTHER MUTUAL QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO CHINESE* ARCHEO-
LOGICAL EXHIBITION IN NORTH AMERICA. ROM'S LATEST IN-
FORMATION IS THAT GOC-PRC NEGOTIATIONS IN PEKING STILL
HUNG UP ON "HOST ARTISTIC CONTROL DOMINANT" PRINCIPLE
(REFTEL). NGA REGARDS PROSPECT OF CHINESE CONTROL AS IN-
TOLERABLE AND SEES PROBLEM ESSENTIALLY AS QUESTION OF
WHETHER EXHIBITION TAKES PLACE IN NORTH AMERICA OR NOT.
ALL PARTIES CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN IF NEGOTIATIONS
GO DOWN TO THE WIRE CHINESE EVENTUALLY WILL GIVE WAY ON
THIS ISSUE. MUSEUMS ARE PROCEEDING WITH GRAPHICS, DISPLAY
AND CATALOGUE ARRANGEMENTS BASED UPON THIS ASSUMPTION.

2. AS PRESENTED BY ROM, CANADIANS SEEM TO HAVE ANTICIPATED
THAT US MUSEUMS WOULD SHARE INSURANCE AND TRANSPORTATION
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EXPENSES OF MOVING EXHIBITION FROM SWEDEN TO NORTH AMERICA.

US SIDE QUICKLY SHOT THIS DOWN, CITING COMMON MUSEUM-WORLD PRACTICE OF "RECIPIENT PAYS", AS WELL AS NGA'S LEGAL INABILITY TO CHARGE ADMISSION FEE, US'S SECOND-IN-LINE POSITION, AND THREAT THAT US MIGHT BE STUCK WITH COSTS OF

RETURNING EXHIBITION TO PEKING. ON THIS LAST QUESTION WE ARE INTERESTED IN ANY LATE INFORMATION ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON WHETHER AND WHEN EXHIBITION HAS BEEN PROMISED MEXICO. IF QUESTION OF WHO PAYS COSTS OF RETURNING EXHIBITION TO PRC ARISES, WE WISH TO START FROM ASSUMPTION THAT "RECIPIENT (INCLUDING LENDING COUNTRY) PAYS", ALTHOUGH WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS OTHER FORMULAE. RUSH

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